

Sustainable Energy Committee Minutes - March 16, 2012

Conference Room G - Town Hall

Committee Members Present:

Christopher Ketchen, Chair
Richard Joyce
Suzy Littlefield
Scott Bender
Robert Cooper
Beth DeSombre
Ellen Korpi
Molly Fairchild, Sustainable Energy Coordinator

Citizens' Speak: no one spoke

Minutes: 2/3/2012 and 2/17/2012 approved with revisions

Municipal Energy Use:

Ms. Fairchild shared the Progress Report on Electric use and emissions reduction for each of the town buildings that are used to update department heads and the Facilities Maintenance Department. The Library staff is using this report and the GroundedPower graphs to draw up a list of energy reduction initiatives. Chris Ketchen is following up with the building Directors. Progress Reports for Natural Gas also will be available by the end of the month.

Update on new WHS – Sustainable Design:

Ms. Littlefield: Tours of WHS have begun, SMART (The original advocacy group for a sustainable design for the New – Pamela Posey, Mary Gard, Ann Rappaport and Molly Fairchild), have redrafted the text and layout of the flyer and brochure about the sustainable design of the new High School. Theresa Green and the Green Team students are making a movie about the green elements with Mary Gard and Pamela Posey.

Wellesley Renewable Energy Campaign:

Ms. Korpi reported that participation has gone from 608 to 690 and now 805 + 10 commercial in the first three weeks of the campaign. People have heard of Wellesley Renewable Energy; there is real momentum now. According to the DOE numbers, we have moved from 10th to 6th position. There is pride that Wellesley is green, disproving the Jan 31 Globe article that there is no interest in renewable energy. Articles have appeared in the Townsman, the Patch and Swellesley Report, and the Weston-Wellesley Magazine. Email blasts have been sent by Friends of recycling, NRC, and Friends of Brookside. Barbara Searle will present with Town Affairs at Wellesley Club, Monday night.

Mr. Joyce reported that Tim Fulham and Ellen Korpi updated the Selectmen. Outreach to commercial customers has included a direct mailing to 125 commercial accounts. Four public power companies in Massachusetts offer voluntary renewable energy programs: Concord, Reading, Shrewsbury and Wellesley, but none of the others have had the response that we are seeing. There has been some negative feedback, related to concerns about the sustainability and cost of materials such as the bumper stickers and lawn signs.

Ms. DeSombre reported that there was a Spring Break message to faculty bulletin board at Wellesley College with an Email letter to forward.

The Committee agreed to plan for Earth Hour (March 31) next year. Earth Day (April 22) falls at the end of school vacation week and is the goal to tally the participation in the Wellesley Renewable Energy.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 am